

# DISC Newsletter

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## DISC NEWSLETTER

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## An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

### **BOT Year In Review** by Dave Timpany

BOT has had a busy year working to reduce the cost of KANWIN and save our customers money. This may seem like a simple and boring process but it has been neither and has covered everything from contracts to organization changes, with plenty of technical work in between.

#### **Aggregation:**

A team has been working for the past year on aggregating multiple KANWIN customers at co-located sites onto a single router and circuit. The State is now saving over \$50,000 annually in circuit costs and our customers are also saving money on their router costs.

#### **Router maintenance:**

As a result of the aggregation project and because agencies such as SRS and KDOR have been closing some of their offices we have accumulated a large number of spare routers (100!). We have in turn removed these from CISCO maintenance resulting in a savings of \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year.

#### **Internet rate:**

Through negotiations with SBC we were able to reduce our Internet rate by 50%.

At the same time we increased our bandwidth from 50Mbps to 70Mbps. At the new rate this saved the State \$130,000 a year compared to the previous rate.

#### **Judicious use of contractors and flexible staffing:**

Through careful allocation of contractors to external projects as opposed to internal DISC projects we are able to reduce internal costs. In addition, resources were shifted within BOT to assist the Installation crew thus avoiding the need to use contractors.

#### **Reduction in inventory:**

BOT has been working to reduce inventory levels of items in the storeroom. Many of these can be reduced because our suppliers are able to deliver them in a much shorter time than previously. As a result inventory value has been reduced by over \$60,000 since December and continues to drop every month.

#### **Grant money:**

BOT received \$700,000 of Homeland Security grant funds to enhance the availability of the KANWIN network. This is \$700,000 that does not impact the KANWIN rate, which it would if we had to use normal funding channels.

## BOT continued

### MAN (Metropolitan Area Network):

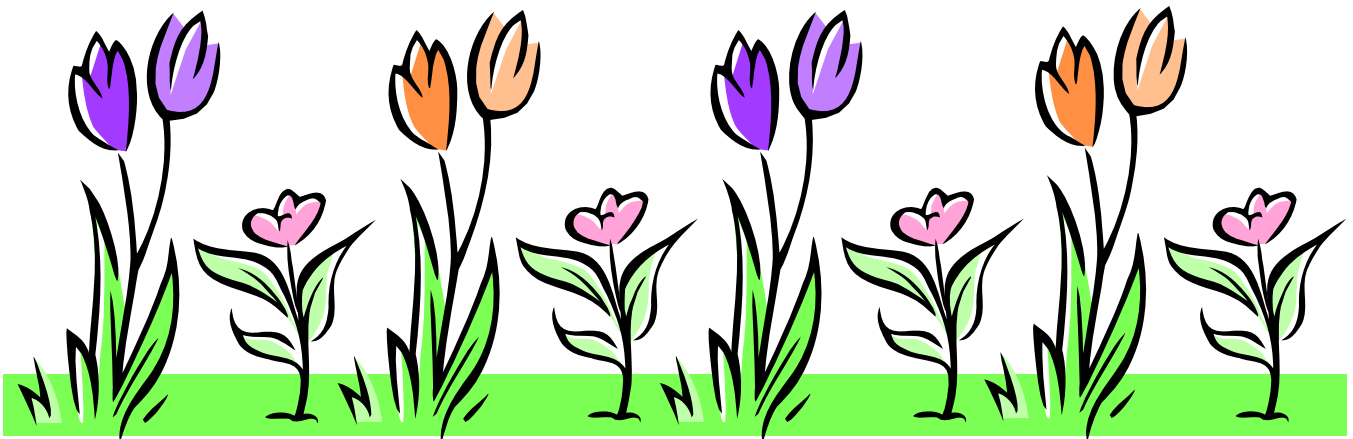
The introduction of the MAN in Topeka will save KANWIN customers \$90,0000 annually compared to their current frame relay and IMA connections. More importantly, it will enable customers to purchase significantly more bandwidth at much less cost than the current offerings and in turn save monies through the consolidation of servers and licenses as well as take advantage of the DISC Tivoli backup services.

### Still trying:

The opportunity still exists to reduce costs for the National Guard through the use of the KANWIN backbone and our network management services. We are hoping that this will eventually happen as it will not only benefit the National Guard but will assist both of us in support of the State continuity of Government (COG) initiative.

We are also still working closely with COX Communications to try to make their cable network available as a KANWIN connect service. This would offer a lower cost and higher bandwidth alternative to frame relay while still delivering the benefits of the KANWIN network to those users.

And in our spare time we have been busy upgrading sites, diagnosing problems, wiring customers, converting the WSOB phone system, installing and programming phones and voice mail, monitoring telecommunications services and performance 7x24, handling information calls, manning the employee self service help desk, upgrading our tools and servers, researching new technologies and products in the lab, working on KIRMS, attending meetings, whew!! Well... you get the idea.





## EMPLOYEE INFO

### *Happy May Birthdays to:*



Angie Feyh

Jimmie Arnold

Shawn Shaugnessy

Todd Fritz

Rick Willoughby

Cad Griffin

Shirley Perry

Evan Desbian

Dave Lord

Nancy Walden

Carol Coates

Steve Lassiter

Paxton Lopeman

Javier Barajas

Michele DeMoss

Gary Sherrer

Bill Berns

Truett Reed

## Births

Cathy Jones' Grandaughter

Madelynn  
Marie Price



## Wedding

Jenny (Hahn) O'Brien and Justin

***Congratulations  
Jenny and Justin***



## Deaths

Dan Glotzbach's Grandfather

***So Sorry For Your  
Loss Dan***



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**Meeting Our Customer's Needs**

## Volunteer Work

Do you ever notice the bulletin boards that display seasonal and informative topics, on the south end of the first floor in the Landon State Office Building? Cheryl Shaughnessy voluntarily changes the information for those bulletin boards. She does an excellent job of keeping us informed and educated about things going on around us.

Thank you Cheryl! We appreciate you and your volunteer efforts in this area. It sure brightens up the elevator lobby.

## KUDO

To: Scott Bickel

I wanted you to know how helpful Scott was this weekend with the configuration of the new tape drive and consoles for use with HSC/VTCS. It is very helpful having Scott work on all of this tape software and hardware with me.

From: Susan Howarter, DISC



## Kansas Music Hall of Fame

A local band from the '60s "The Blue Things" was inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame in January of this year. Our own Larry Burton was a member of that band. The group recorded several songs during their reign as a progressive rock band of the area. Larry played rhythm guitar, the keyboard and was the lead vocalist for the band. Below is a copy of the award given to Larry. You can find a history of the band at [http://www.lawrence.com/bands/the\\_blue\\_things/](http://www.lawrence.com/bands/the_blue_things/). Larry Burton is mentioned in paragraphs 17 and 18.

*Congratulations Larry*

